

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-04-04

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday May 25, 2004

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 28, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2004, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order provides for the use of bait in the lower portion of the Deshka River drainage beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 28, through 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2004. Fishing is allowed only between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. daily. The area in which bait may be used is from the mouth of the Deshka River upstream to an ADF&G marker located near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and all waters within a one-half mile radius of the Deshka River's confluence with the Susitna River. That part of the Deshka River adjacent to the weir (300 ft. upstream and downstream of the weir located at river mile 7) remains closed to fishing as noted by department regulatory markers.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA – WEST COOK INLET AREA. (d)(6)(B) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 28, through 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2004:

5AAC 61.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA – WEST COOK INLET AREA.

(d)(6) in the Deshka River drainage,
(B) from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17) and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, king salmon may be taken from January 1 – July 13; bait may be used; the remainder of the drainage is closed from January 1 – December 31 to sport fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length;

Kevin C. Duffy,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon returns to the Deshka River have been above the upper range of the biological escapement goal (BEG) for the past five years. It is anticipated that the 2004 king salmon return will be well above the upper end of the BEG, thus creating a surplus of king salmon needed for spawning. The number of king salmon counted passed the Deshka River weir to date is slightly above last year's count at this time, indicating that this year's return may be similar to last year, which was well above the upper end of the escapement goal. The average Deshka River king salmon sport harvest is approximately 8,000 fish annually. By extending the time period in which the use of bait is allowed, an additional 2,000 to 3,000 fish will likely be harvested. The anticipated escapement from this increased harvest will be near or over the upper range of the BEG.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.